

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

£13 MILLION INCENTIVE TO PLANT MORE TREES



The Government is devoting £13 million to help landowners plant more trees, protect wildlife, and boost the timber sector.

Farmers, foresters, and land managers across the UK will be able to apply for up to £6,800 per hectare to plant, weed, and protect more trees when application forms for the next round of the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant become available in September.

A further multi-year annual payment of £200 per hectare can be claimed for 10 years to support the successful establishment and on-going maintenance of new woodland through activities such as replacing individual trees that die, maintaining fencing, and removing competing vegetation.

“Farmers should look into this available funding with keen interest,” believes Tom Bishop, associate partner at BCM Rural Property Specialists, based in Winchester. “New woodland can be planted in areas of pasture or arable, but the farmer must consider which location gives them greatest added benefit.

“Planting woodland on wet, unproductive agricultural land could provide farmers a sustainable alternative that also aids neighbouring fields through reductions in erosion and pesticide spray drift.”

New woodland must contribute to either biodiversity and / or water objectives with predominantly native species planted in a mixture with honorary species.

“This grant falls perfectly into the hands of a farming enterprise looking to improve its soil structure or deal with the issues that arise from cultivation, sprays and flooding,” adds Tom.

“BCM is now planning with clients how to utilise these proposed grants to maximise their advantages to both the agriculture industry and wider community. The grants will help promote this often expensive process that sees little short-term benefit for landowners who have to plan costly long-term investment at a time when farm budgets are already under huge pressure.”

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